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-- Although modifications and changes may be suggested by those of ordinary skill in the art, it is the intention of the inventors to embody within the patent warranted hereon all changes and modifications as reasonably and properly come within the scope of their contribution to the art.--

5 **IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 1-3 and substitute the following claims 4-6 therefor:

RI.126 506 74.4

10 A method for three-dimensional identification of an object having an object surface, said method comprising the steps of:
illuminating a digital micro mirror arrangement via a light source;
successively projecting a number of encoded illumination patterns in a beam path through a variable color filter onto said object surface by driving said digital micro mirror arrangement to sequentially illuminate said object surface with at least three colors for identification of at least three depth planes of said object in a single image;
15 registering said image of said object with a color camera from a direction different from said beam path; and
calculating a high precision topography of said object surface from
20 said registration in a control and evaluation unit.

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2. The method according to claim 1, wherein said encoded illumination patterns comprise a stripe pattern having successively varied periodicity.

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3. The method according to claim 1, wherein said method is
25 used for face identification.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

On page 8, in line 1, cancel "Abstract" substitute the following